

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today joined FALA Technologies CEO Frank Falatyn to announce that the small Hudson Valley manufacturer is adding jobs ahead of schedule. Despite the good news, Hinchey noted that unemployment remains too high and said it's time for the House Republican majority to shift its focus to job creation.

"FALA technologies is a great success story, but there are still tens of thousands of New Yorkers who are without jobs and would like to see Congress do something about it," said Hinchey. "I'm continuing to make job creation my top priority. We've got to end subsidies for Big Oil and invest in the alternative energy technology that companies like FALA can manufacture. We've got to end the unfair trade system so that we can go back to making things in the Hudson Valley, instead of in China. And we've got to support local small businesses and manufacturers so that they can get this economy moving again."

FALA, which provides engineering and manufacturing services to the semiconductor and computer equipment industry, has increased its workforce by 10 percent in the first half of 2011 and is hoping to double that increase by year's end.

"Much of the business growth that FALA has experienced in 2011 stems from the upsurge in the semiconductor industry experienced both here in the US and abroad," said Falatyn. "So far this year we have hired seven new employees and we are looking to double that as soon as we can. We've always tried to stay one step ahead of our competitors in Asia and we have to in order to remain competitive. Some of the products we used to make are now manufactured in places like China. To create even more jobs and build on our success, we need to level the playing field for global trade and continue educating our workforce so that it is the strongest in the world."

Hinchey outlined four actions that the United States should take to ensure that companies at home aren't put at a competitive disadvantage. First, the United States should begin to renegotiate unfair trade deals that force American workers to compete against low wages and poor environmental standards in third world countries. Second, the United States should impose trade penalties on China until it ends the currency manipulation that puts U.S. made goods at a disadvantage. Third, the United States should continue to strengthen Buy American provisions so that more of our taxpayer dollars are spent on American companies to procure new technologies. Finally, Hinchey said America needs to continue investing in education so that young people are prepared to take on the jobs of the 21st century.

Hinchey has opposed unfair trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) because they cause the exportation of U.S. jobs out of the country. He is a cosponsor of the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act (TRADE Act), which would require a comprehensive review of major trade agreements on the books, ensure that environmental labor and human rights standards are addressed in future agreements, and give Congress the authority it needs to assert its proper constitutional role in the trade negotiating process by significantly limiting future fast-track authority.

In the previous Congress, Hinchey worked to pass the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act (H.R. 2378), which allows the president to retaliate against China's fundamentally undervalued currency by imposing tariffs to level the playing field. The legislation died in the U.S. Senate.

In 2011, President Obama signed into law a provision authored by Hinchey, which requires that all solar energy panels purchased by the Department of Defense are made in the U.S. The amendment was included as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, which was signed into law by President Obama in January. The Congressman said he is drafting legislation to improve Buy American Act provisions so that taxpayer dollars spent to procure technologies for the federal government benefit American workers, instead of workers abroad.